

MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE: VITAL SIGNS

PRINCIPLE:

1. Vital signs are a key component of the patient assessment utilized in determining the patient's physiological status, and the treatment options that best meet their needs.

GUIDELINES:

1. Obtain and document the following vital signs on all patients equal to or greater than three years of age:
 - a. Blood pressure
 - b. Pulse
 - c. Respiratory rate and tidal volume
 - d. Level of consciousness
 - e. Skin signs
 - f. Temperature (if obtained)
 - g. Pulse oximeter (if available and indicated by chief complaint)
2. Obtain and document the following vital signs on all patients less than three years of age:
 - a. Capillary refill – avoid distal extremities
 - b. Level of consciousness
 - c. Pulse
 - d. Respiratory rate and tidal volume
 - e. Skin signs
 - f. Temperature (if obtained)
 - g. Pulse oximeter (if available and indicated by chief complaint)
3. Repeat and document vital signs:
 - a. On any patient whose initial vital signs were not within normal limits
 - b. After any treatment
 - c. After administration of medications
 - d. Upon transfer of care